

**Particulars of Wildlife Wing, Directorate of Forests, Government of West Bengal
(Information required to be provided under section 4 of Right to Information Act, 2005)**

1. Particulars of the Organisation, functions and duties:

- a. The Forest Department is located at Aranya Bhavan in Saltlake, Kolkata – 700106 while the Wildlife Wing, which is under the administrative control of the Forest Department, is located at Bikash Bhavan, North Block, 3rd Floor, Saltlake, Kolkata-700 091.
- b. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife is the administrative head of the Wildlife Wing which is responsible for intensive management of Wildlife of the State. He is assisted by two Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests- APCCF, Wildlife and APCCF & Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve; three officers in the rank of Chief Conservator - 2 for North Bengal-i. The CCF, WL(N) and ii) The Field Director of Buxa Tiger Reserve and the remaining one is iii). The Field Director, Sunderban Tiger Reserve. There are three officers in the rank of Conservator of Forests- one at HQ in Kolkata, one is Joint Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve also in Kolkata and the other one in North Bengal. Under the respective Conservators, there are the Divisional Forest Officers in Wildlife Wing(HQ), Darjeeling Wildlife Division, Gorumara Wildlife Division, Jaldapara Wildlife Division, two Deputy Field Directors in Buxa Tiger Reserve and one Deputy Field Director in Sunderban Tiger Reserve.

Function:

- Protection of Wildlife and their habitats.
- Habitat Improvement Program
- Reduction of Man-animal conflict
- Eco-development activities around the protected areas.
- In-situ conservation
- Research and Monitoring
- Extension of Nature education and Awareness Generation.
- To keep vigil on the illegal trade in animal and body parts,
- Maintain record of wildlife trophies and issue certificate to the owners etc.

Duties :

There are at present 16 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 6 National Parks, 2 Tiger Reserves (overlapping with National Park/Sanctuaries), 2 two Elephant Reserves and 5 Conservation Reserves. It is the duty of the officers and staff to monitor, protect these areas and the wild animals within these areas and outside as well.

2. Powers and duties of Officers and Employees :

As per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife is the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State who is the custodian of the Protected Areas of the state. The Conservator of Forests are the Deputy Chief Wildlife Wardens and the Divisional Forest officers are the Wildlife Wardens. The Chief Wildlife Warden delegates some of his powers to

the officers under him within the provision of the Wildlife Protection Act. Other than protected area, there are some other areas where wildlife is available, their management is indirectly under the guidance of the Chief Wildlife Warden.

The census operation and population estimation of key species is held at regular intervals. Other than major animal, regular monitoring is undertaken to survey the status of other animals. Proper maintenance of habitat is undertaken regularly by the field administration. Search-seizure of illegal possession of wild animals is done on daily basis.

The powers of the officers and employees are gathered from the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Indian Forest Act 1927 and other admissible acts & rules.

3. Procedure followed in the decision making process, including channels of supervision and accountability:

Regular monitoring and supervision of the performance of officers are done through ACRs, Diaries submitted by the officers and reports sent from time to time.

Decisions, through proper channel, are undertaken from Divisional Forest Officer → Conservator of Forests → Chief Conservator of Forests → Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests → Principal Chief Conservator of Forests → Principal Secretary.

4. Norms for discharge of functions:

All officers discharge their duties in accordance with the provisions of various Acts and rules framed there under and also according to the circulars and orders issued from time to time.

5. Rules, Regulations, Instructions, Manuals and Records etc. used by Forest Officers for discharging duties:

- The Wildlife(Protection) Act 1972 and its Amendments with WL(P) Act Schedule
- The Indian Forest Act 1927
- The Forest Conservation Act 1980
- Delegation of Powers under provisions of Wildlife(Protection) Act, 1972 and Rules framed thereunder

6. The statements of the categories of the documents held by the Directorate :

The Annual Report of the Wing is published every year which contains all information relating to the operations of the Wing. This provides adequate information not only to the departmental Officers but also to any person who wishes to familiarize himself with wildlife matters.

Other than Annual Report there are Management Plan of Protected Areas, Project Reports, Brochure for Awareness Generation, Database for owners of Wildlife Trophy, Budgetary document , Census report etc.

7. Arrangements for consultation with or representation by the members of the public in relation to the formulation of its policy or implementation thereof :

To conserve the floral and faunal biodiversity of the areas within and outside the protected areas, direct involvement of the fringe population has been ensured through formation of Joint Forest Management Committee. Other than these, local self-help groups are active in some areas.

8. Formation of Boards, Councils or Committees:

Normally boards, councils, committees or other bodies are constituted for the purpose of providing advice. The State Board for Wildlife consists of wildlife experts besides forest and wildlife officials as members to discuss problems and prospects related to wildlife.

Contract studies/Research programs are carried out by research scholars and experts and different institutions. In-house or Departmental research and collaborative research is also undertaken.

Regular seminar, workshops are held to keep the wildlife officials and park managers updated.

9. Directory of Officers and Employees:

At Wildlife(Hq) in Kolkata:

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| 1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal. | Sri Ravikant Sinha, IFS |
| 2. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife | Sri Sandeep Sundriyal, IFS |
| 3. Conservator of Forests, Wildlife(HQ) | Sri. S. Sasikumar,, IFS |
| 4. Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Planning & Research | Smt Sumita Ghatak, IFS |
| 5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wildlife(Hq) | Sri Om Prakash, IFS |
| 6. Asst. Wildlife Warden, Wildlife(Hq) | Sri Somnath Chatterjee, WBFS |
| 7. Asst. Wildlife Warden, Wildlife(Hq) | Sri Soumen Mondal, WBFS |

In North Bengal:

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| 1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife(North). | Sri Ujjwal Ghosh, IFS |
| 2. Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Buxa Tiger Reserve | Sri Subhankar Sengupta, IFS |
| 3. Divisional Forest Officer, Darjeeling Wildlife Division | Sri.D.D.Rai, IFS |
| 4. Divisional Forest Officer, Gorumara Wildlife Division | Ms. Nisha Goswami, IFS |
| 5. Divisional Forest Officer, Jaldapara Wildlife Division | Sri Kumar Vimal, IFS |
| 6. Deputy Field Director, Buxa(East) Division | Sri Harish, IFS |
| 7. Deputy Field Director, Buxa(West) Division | Sri Kalyan Rai, IFS |

In South Bengal:

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| 1. Addl. PCCF & Director, Sunderban Biosphere Reserve | Dr. R. P. Saini, IFS |
| 2. Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Sunderban Tiger Reserve | Sri N. Mallik, IFS |
| 3. Joint Director, Sunderban Biosphere Reserve | Dr. S. Kulandaivel, IFS |
| 4. Deputy Field Director, Sunderban Tiger Reserve | Sri. Ajoy Das, IFS |

10. **Remuneration:** As per rule All India Service Rule for Indian Forest Service officers and as per State Service Rule for West Bengal Forest Service officers and employees.

11. **Budget allocation:** The Wildlife Wing is implementing various State Plan Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes for conservation of wildlife and their habitat in the State. A brief on the Schemes is as follows:

- a. **State Plan Schemes:** Every year fund is received under this scheme for creation and maintenance of plantations, forest protection, timber operation, control of poaching, wildlife conservation in various national parks and sanctuaries, infrastructure development and publicity. For CSS-Project Tiger, 40% share from Non-recurring and 50% share from recurring cost is contributed from the State.
- b. **National Parks & Sanctuaries Schemes:** This is 60:40 Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of different national parks and sanctuaries in this State. The fund is being provided for habitat development, protection, infrastructure development, Research and Monitoring, awareness generation and eco-development.
- c. **Project Tiger:** This scheme is implemented in Buxa Tiger Reserve and Sundarban Tiger Reserve. Govt. of India provides 60% funds for non-recurring expenditures and 50% for recurring expenditures. The State Govt. contributes 50% of the fund from State Plan for recurring expenditures and 40% of the fund for non-recurring expenditures.
- d. **Project Elephant:** This is 60:40 Centrally Sponsored Scheme for conservation of wild elephant population in the State. The fund is provided for habitat development, infrastructure development, protection, reducing man-elephant conflict and awareness generation specially in Eastern Dooars Elephant Reserve and Mayurjharna Elephant Reserve.
- e. **Conservation & Management of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve:** This is 60:40 Centrally Sponsored Scheme for plantation, protecting eco-development activities of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve.
- f. **Conservation and Management of Sundarban Mangroves:** This is 60:40 Centrally sponsored Scheme for Conservation and Management of mangroves in Sundarbans and includes mangrove plantation, protection infrastructure support and eco-development works.
- g. **Conservation and Management of Wetlands:** This is a scheme for Wetland Conservation and is 60:40 Centrally Sponsored Scheme. In this state three wetlands – Ahiron Beel, Rasik Beel and Santragachi Jheel has been identified for funding by Govt. of India, in addition to Sundarbans. The scheme includes wetland conservation and eco restoration measures and eco-development activities.
- h. **Intensification of Forest Management (IFM):** This is a scheme for protection of forests, fire management and Infrastructure development in the State with 60% funding from Govt. of India and 40% contribution by the State Govt.
- i. **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management And Planning Authority (CAMPA) :** Guidelines for establishing CAMPAs in the States/UTs and putting in place a funding mechanism for enhancing forest and tree cover and conservation and management of wildlife by utilising funds received towards Compensatory Afforestation, Net Present Value (NPV), etc.
- j. **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):** The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is implemented in the districts. This Programme was formerly known as National Food for Work Programmme. The programme is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

12. Manners of execution of subsidy programme

There is no subsidy program as such but there is provision of allocation of ex-gratia relief for damage to human life and crop damage by wild animals. In the year 2016-17 Rs.752.260 lakhs of ex-gratia relief was paid for human death, human injury, crop damage and hut damage by wild animals.

13. Particulars of recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations

Allotment of ownership certificate for wildlife trophy. Permission are granted for approved research projects.

14. Details in respect of information, available to or held by the Directorate, reduced in an electronic form:

The website for the Wing is operational under the url www.wildbengal.com This website contains various information for the general public.

15. Facilities Available to Citizens for Obtaining Information:

Official Website, Office library, brochure, leaflets distribution and regular campaign at strategic locations during festive occasions, celebration of Wildlife Day/Week.

16. Names, designation and other particulars of the public information officers

Chief Public Information Officer - Sri S. Sasikumar, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Wildlife(Hq)

Public Information Officer - Sri Om Prakash, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wildlife(Hq)

Appellate Authority - Sri Sandeep Sundriyal, IFS, Addl.Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife.